

"Brooding Mystery of Mohammedan World" in Egypt



AN EGYPTIAN DONKEY BOY.

BY CHARLES M. PEPPER.

GERMANY'S allies in Egypt and northern Africa are now said to include the Senussi, "the brooding mystery of the Mohammedan world." This is one of the chapters in the great war whose importance depends on the degree of truth which it carries.

Egypt may be threatened by military operations remote from Suez as well as by a Turco-German army working across the desert through the Holy Land to Suez itself. But in any military movements in the Libyan desert, and all the region of northern Africa contiguous to the Mediterranean, Germany reports, although Berlin intelligence on the same subject must be received with great caution.

Any help Germany may have in threatening Egypt will be very largely such as may come from the tribesmen between the Nile and Morocco. Sinister significance for the allies, nevertheless, is contained in some of the censored London reports, although Berlin intelligence on the same subject must be received with great caution.

As recently as New Year it was reported from Cairo by way of London that the colonialists from New Zealand and the Sikhs from India were driving the enemy forces southwest of Alexandria, and moreover that the Arabs, by surprise night attacks, had attempted to overwhelm small British garrisons. The Egyptian advisers, by way of London, further stated that the enemy forces were being driven westward toward the frontier of Tripoli and that Italian military forces would cooperate with the British in ending the border attacks on isolated Egyptian posts. There were also reports from Berlin of German submarines co-operating with land forces of the Arabs.

Heading between the lines of both the London and the Berlin dispatches, importance is apt to be given by those initiated in Egyptian matters and by the superficial knowledge of Mohammedan activities which is all that is ever obtained outside of the faithful followers of the prophet, to the statement that the Senussi are engaged in the movement.

London dispatches said that the British authorities in Egypt were taking energetic action to suppress Senussi raids. This was the first admission that Senussi were in Egypt against British authority. Revolt of the Senussi against British authority in Egypt also means probable revolt against Italian authority

ALLIES of Germany Now Said to Include the Senussi—Vague Rumors Concerning These People, Sometimes Called "the Sleeping Menace of Northern Africa"—Their Headquarters in the Oasis of Siouah—Chiefs of the Order—Lodges, Monasteries and Seats of Learning—Degrees Conferred Based Chiefly on Knowledge of the Koran—The Desert Missionaries—The Purpose of the Senussi.

day, the most militant organization in all Islam. The French resident, however, did know a little about the organization, though he did not pretend to fathom its motives, or even its plans. It is, he said, the most militant organization in all Islam. It includes the Arabs from Alexandria to Morocco and the Nubians and the Sudanese blacks of the Nile. It is not a mere order of fanatics such as the dervishes under the Mahdi, whom Kitchener crushed and established firmly, as was supposed. British rule in Egypt and beyond. The heads of the order are in touch with the rest of the world, and are very far from being mere devotees. They follow no false prophet, as was the case of the tribesmen who rallied to the Mahdi. The Senussi have their headquarters in the oasis of Siouah, or rather at Djair-Berb, which is several days' march across the desert from the oasis. Siouah is as far as the French and English and other non-Moslem travelers have been able to get in their efforts to fathom the mystery of the Senussi. At Djair-Berb there is a splendid tomb erected to the first chief of the order. So far as the different governments and their representatives have been able to learn, the Senussi has an organization somewhat similar to the Masonic order. There are lodges, monasteries and seats of learning. Degrees are conferred, based chiefly on the knowledge of the Koran. The highest of these degrees is that of savants, or theologians. From the headquarters in the desert missionaries are sent out to all parts of the Moslem world.

There are some fifty million Mohammedans in Africa, and all but a few millions of them are in northern Africa. How many of these Mohammedans are Senussi no one can guess. All that the agents of the Christian powers have been able to learn is that they are very numerous, and that they regard some of the sections of the Moslem world as heretics. This is supposed to be one reason for their missionary activities. The regeneration of Islam has been described as the purpose of the Senussi, but in the past all hints of a jihad, or holy war, against the infidels were rejected. Apparently, the purpose was to regenerate Islam from within, and



TEMPLE OF ISIS, ISLAND OF PHILAE, NOW SUBMERGED BY THE ASSOUM DAM.

there were even specific statements that nothing in the nature of a political revolution was contemplated. No indications could be found that the Senussi were mixing in Egyptian politics. Intimations were given of hostility to Sultan Abdul at Constantinople before the Senussi uprising, but because he was not sympathetic to the regeneration of Islam. No signs of sympathy were shown for the

Young Turks, because they were looked upon as political reformers who wanted to mold Islam to their own purposes, and who were little better than heretics.

There is no reason to suppose that the chiefs of the Senussi are any more friendly to the dictatorship of Enver Pasha and his coterie of Young Turks, who made the coalition with Germany, than they were to Enver and his associates when Abdul was upset. It is certain that at the beginning of the war they acknowledged no allegiance to Turkey in forming the alliance with Germany and becoming a belligerent. British authority in Egypt and French authority in Algeria and Morocco, always treated the Senussi with the greatest consideration. The Italians, after they got control in Tripoli, followed the same policy, and it was said that the Arab tribes there preferred the Italian sovereignty to the Turkish control.

British Imperial policy in Egypt, as in other parts of the world, has shown much hospitality to Mohammedan institutions. The Mohammedan College at Khartoum, where Gordon fell, a victim to the fanatics, is the British tribute to Mohammedanism. But the British authorities themselves were said to be greatly astonished when they learned that the Senussi were established in the Sudan and were indifferent to the tribute to Mohammedanism there.

At an early period of the war it was thought that the Senussi might be arrayed directly on the side of the British as against Turkey. Suggestions were thrown out that the head of the order, the Sheikh-I-Mahdi, might be made Khedive of Egypt. He claims descent from Mahomet through Hassan, the son of the prophet's favorite daughter, Fatima, and by the Islamic law he would, therefore, be qualified for the kalifate or leadership of Islam.

England, however, when she proclaimed her Egyptian protectorate and selected Prince Hussein as her viceroy, ended the prospect of a rap-

prochement with the Senussi. Prince Hussein was an uncle of Abbas I, the deposed khedive. He was the eldest living prince of the family of Mehmet Ali. Whether the project of making the head of the Senussi khedive or sultan of Egypt ever could have been carried out now belongs to the realm of conjecture. About all that is known is that Sultan Hussein is not the kind of a sultan to command the support of the Senussi as the regenerator of Islam. He is too modern in his tendencies and too much in touch with the western civilization, which is inherently antagonistic to pure Islamism. Under Mohammedan power, Islam is rent by schisms and sects, and there is no great prospect that the Mohammedans in Egypt can be welded together under one headship.

The Senussi, as spiritual regenerators, would find many dissenters in the mosques of Alexandria and of Cairo. These are impregnated with western ideas of political progress, and to that extent would be heretics. The Senussi, if they become strong enough, might even have to follow the literal precepts of the Koran, and extend their supremacy by the sword not only over the infidel or Christian forces, but also over Moslem dissenters.

It is to be observed, too, that Egypt is a medley of nationalities and religions, and is not merely a physical section of the Mohammedan world. The bulk of the native population, which is Arabic, never has been harmonious with the Turks. The Arab and Turkish quarters in Alexandria are as distinct as the East and West. The Senussi, if they become strong enough, might have to follow the literal precepts of the Koran, and extend their supremacy by the sword not only over the infidel or Christian forces, but also over Moslem dissenters.

Masterpieces of Map Making for Library of Congress

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was not only the first American map to be engraved but was the first to become naturalized on this continent.

The only one now extant of the quite numerous copies printed of this map is the one in the possession of Mr. Phillips, and is now to be seen in the fireproof building of the Library of Congress. If both these copies should be lost there would be no possible way of procuring a duplicate of the map on which the most of the cartography up to 1805 of Maryland is based.

Mr. Phillips in his writings has demonstrated that it is the large maps like this which are, from the difficulty of caring for them properly, most apt to be destroyed, so it is quite probable that another copy will ever come to light.

The map of equal or even greater value in building up the map systems of Maryland and Maryland is the work of another of those restless, adventurous spirits who led in the exploration from which proceeds the development of every new country—the Argonauts and the Pioneers, the men who sailed with Columbus at the Argonauts and Drake, Livingston and Stanley, Peary and Amundsen. Captain John Smith not only explored the country along the ocean and the coast of Maryland and Virginia but made a map of such excellence that

"Powhatan held this state and fashion when Capt. Smith was delivered to him prisoner, also that the 'Susquehannough' (Susquehanna Indians) 'are a gaylike people,' while a note states that the crosses which appear on the map indicate the 'places which had been discovered, what beyond is by relation from the savages.'"

Where these crosses appear that map possesses an accuracy which in a general way would be good to the present time, and they appear with such frequency that the exploring settlers following him must have been largely guided by it. He examined the shores of Chesapeake bay with thoroughness, sailed up some of the rivers, including the Potomac, which he entered at its seven mile mouth into the bay and followed up as far as the falls above Georgetown, passing the sites of Mount Vernon and the present city of Washington.

Mr. Phillips, in a monograph on the subject, has said: "If we knew nothing of Capt. John Smith but what is conveyed to us by his map of Virginia it would entitle him to rank pre-eminently high among great explorers and cartographers. Journeying along unknown streams in a country where at every step lurked danger from the native savages and from his rebellious crew, Smith made a map which is an authority to the present day. Its topographical correctness is remarkable, and his knowledge of the passage to the other sea will be a great boon to the 'Virginia sea,' which lies just outside the mouth of the Chesapeake bay."

The legends inform the student that



AN ENGRAVING, SHOWING SUSQUEHANNA INDIAN, FROM THE JOHN SMITH MAP OF VIRGINIA.

follow the instructions of his company: "You must observe, if you can, whether the river on which you plant doth spring out of mountains or out of lakes; for if it be out of any lake, money, machinery and initiative to cut a way for the ocean through the morasses and mountains of Panama. These are but two of the wonderful things which runs the contrary way to the East India sea." So that as late as 1607 the older continent was still seeking a waterway to the orient. That way exists, but it did not until

of Daniel Boone; the Fitch map, engraved and printed on a cedar press by its maker, who then, traveling from place to place peddled it, to raise money to build his first steamboat, and the many more.

Rare old charts on skin or parchment show beautiful color lines and sailing points, while quaint sketches of griffins, cannibals and gnomes indicate how, according to travelers' tales, the unexplored country within was peopled.

A great paper wheel, five feet across, with wedge-shaped spokes running to the rim, is but the upper half of a map to be fitted about a globe. A similar wheel, with different designs, forms the southern hemisphere. It is divided into twelve gores running from a circular center. It is of very unusual design and is another item known to exist or even to have been in existence.

It was made in 1588, and is beautifully engraved with illustrations supposed to show the character of the various peoples. Many of the old map-makers seem to have regarded finish rather than accuracy in their handiwork and cheerfully gave color to the tale of Manderville or some other traveler if they lent themselves to illustration.

The globe map, which is in perfect condition, represents California as a large island, living off the coast of what is now known as the Gulf of California. The cartouche contains the title surrounded by classical figures. It is described as the captain general of the sea.

Mr. Phillips, while browsing about some old shop in London, found it and recognized its worth. The dealer was in negotiation with a man for its purchase, but the latter had haggled a little too long. American cash and promptness secured the prize and this map is now in the hands of the Library of Congress.

Others in the cases of the library's map division, where, but little noticed, the various maps tell the story of the centuries of singular beliefs, customs and power of the nations.

The Height of Meteors. METEORS, or shooting stars, are small solid bodies that fall through space, become incandescent in the atmosphere of the earth, and usually disappear in the form of gas or dust. If two observers stationed several miles apart see the same shooting star and note the point in the sky where it appeared they can construct a hypothetical triangle, the apex of which is the point of appearance of the meteor, and thus obtain the approximate height of the shooting star when it first became visible.

A GIRLS' CIVIC SOCIETY

THERE is a newly formed girls' civic association in the northeast section of the city. The purpose of the association, as presented by Miss Janeiro Brooks, the secretary, is to bring cheer and comfort in substantial form to needy folks at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

"The organized charities help thousands," Miss Brooks said, "but I have seen hundreds of families who are overlooked because they are proud and prefer to suffer in silence rather than make known their needs."

Credit for the first suggestion of the formation of a girls' civic association goes to Miss Eloise Thomas of the Edmonds school, who submitted the idea to Miss Elizabeth Bache, the cooking school instructor of the seventh division, who received it enthusiastically and really proved to be the moving spirit in the organization.

The association has a membership of 200. As yet there are no dues, but it is the intention of the secretary to submit that question at the next meeting, together with other plans.

It is very nice to help at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving," she said, "but I believe we should also assist at other times. My address is 329 8th street northeast, and I shall be very glad indeed to receive contributions of clothes and food at any time for distribution among those whom I have investigated and listed as very needy."

Representatives from the Edmonds, Hillton, Maury, Carbery and Peabody schools have been named and upon the shoulders of those delegates falls the duty of stimulating enthusiasm among the children at their respective institutions.

Flippancy. A FLIPPANT answer, said Senator Williams, apropos of a war argument. "This answer in its flippancy," he continued, "reminds me of the couple to whom a young man, driven to desperation, said: 'If you don't answer me one way or the other—yes or no—I'll hang myself in your front yard.' 'Oh, no,' said the coquette. 'You mustn't do that. Father doesn't like young men hanging about.'"

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